

# DRAFT

Village of Ardentown  
Ardentown, DE 19810

Established 1922  
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, June 15, 2020  
Alison Wakelin, Town Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

## *In Attendance*

- |                     |                         |                    |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alison Wakelin   | 13. Janna Scheflen      | 25. Joe Grippe     |
| 2. Cindy Cohen      | 14. Cheryl Regan        | 26. Sharri Phalan  |
| 3. Holly Custer     | 15. Lisa Riblett        | 27. Annie Gutsche  |
| 4. Suzanne Cherrin  | 16. Allan Kleban        | 28. Oliver Gutsche |
| 5. Betty Ann Themal | 17. Sharon Kleban       | 29. Christiana     |
| 6. Harry Themal     | 18. Barbara Mondzeleski | Dobrzynski         |
| 7. Anne Lutz        | 19. Janet Cosgrove      | 30. Joseph Painter |
| 8. Edmond Bischoff  | 20. Elaine Schmerling   | 31. Lee Painter    |
| 9. Pat Lane         | 21. Chris Monson        | 32. Bob Erenburg   |
| 10. Drew Hansen     | 22. Melissa Parsonson   | 33. Ellie Hansen   |
| 11. Terri Hansen    | 23. Mhairi Craig        |                    |
| 12. Joan Fitzgerald | 24. Stuart Craig        |                    |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Holly Custer reporting in absentia:

Operating Accounts:	\$ 57,375.00
Municipal Street Aid:	\$10,798.18
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$19,965.18</u>
<b>Total Funds Available:</b>	<b>\$88,138.36</b>

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** Cindy Cohen reporting:

## **Recent Leasehold Changes:**

We welcome **Bob Erenburg and Ellie Hansen** to 2316 Orchard (AKA the "Peace House"). They moved in on May 1st and have received their Welcome packet.

We also heard from Joe & Lee Painter at 1517 Woodland that they are welcoming their first tenants to their new apartment. **Lauren Powell and Paul Moser** moved into Ardentown on June 1st. A Welcome packet is on its way.

**Barbara Conway** has recently moved from 2202 Sconset Road to Joan Fitzgerald's apartment at 2305 Loreley Lane. Welcome to the other side of Ardentown, Barbara!

**Newcomers: Are there any new residents in attendance at tonight's meeting?** If so, please raise your hand and we will unmute you so you can introduce yourself.

**As always, if you know of any other leasehold changes, or changes in rentals** within Ardentown, please contact one of the Registration Committee members. It takes the whole village to keep track of all the comings and goings of our residents.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN:** Betty Ann Themal reporting: Nothing to report

**ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:** Janet Cosgrove reporting: The Assessment Committee met 3 times since the last town meeting on 2/10/20. In April, we submitted a request for documents and a list of questions to Joan regarding the trust budget and land rent, and we are studying the answers to determine our next set of questions. The gathering of documents is going slowly and has raised concerns about past record keeping and the availability of documents. Committee member Joe Grippe is creating a spreadsheet tracking the last 10 years of the county and school real estate tax portion of each individual leasehold. A tedious job but will yield a valuable database.

Janet Cosgrove would like to remind everyone that one of the reasons the Assessment Committee was formed was to be a liaison with the leaseholders and the trustees. Do you have questions about land rent or how your money is spent? Are there topics and ideas you would like to develop and discuss in a small forum rather than at the town meeting? Please contact me at email: janet.cosgrove@foxroach.com. We really would love to hear from you!

**PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE:** nothing to report.

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:** Melissa Parsonson reporting: The Museum is collecting items and records related to anything quarantine or Covid related so there will be a record. They will be reopening soon for appointment only. Can only have 9 people at a time, masks required. The museum is working on getting hand sanitizer and other safety materials.

**BUZZ COMMITTEE:** Shari Phalan reporting:

Cleaning:

Upholstery has been cleaned and floors treated with linseed

HVAC units have been cleaned

Electrical work - repair work has been completed.

Additional outdoor outlets with pedestals & GFI are being considered

Lighting - Bamboo trellises lit and BWVC sign will get new conduit.

Parking - when dual events at Buzz and Gild, BWVC will provide an extra parking person. BWVC uses green for parking approx. twice a month.

Mural - Trim pieces have been removed for mural

Storage - Looking into the possibility of purchasing another shed for storage for chairs, tables and items from committee members garages

Flooring - New flooring has been installed in both hallways during lockdown. Looks beautiful.

Rug - donated to the Buzz. Has to be cleaned and will be displayed

Roof - Leak in roof over the stage. Being checked and looked into.

Black suspended ceiling over the stage is being considered

Purchases:

Google WIFI dual band mesh system was purchased and installed

New front door lock

New shelving in Pantry

Defibrillator - training will be provided when building is reopened

Rentals - Any changes to rentals must be made through our website

Art on the Town:

December 78 people, \$215 in donations

January 62 attendees, \$133 donations

No February event; cancelled until Corona Virus is over

Art will be kept up from last event

Awakened Heart - Rent abatement for extended use when they can return. Received \$373 for tithing.

Laughter Yoga - Thursday evenings and their use was extended through February; relocated to Gild Hall Library

in

February. I don't know if that is still happening

Strength and Mobility classes - will continue virtually, maybe

Memorial Policy - \$75/fee; 125 maximum capacity for a four hour rental. Ray Seigfried had a memorial for his wife on June 13 outside. All food and beverages were provided by caterers as box lunches and no open

buffet. We extend our condolences to Ray.

Coffee House :

December - 83+ attending, \$459 in donations

January - 63 attendees, \$513 donations

February - 99 attendees, \$583 donations

March - discontinued due to Corona Virus

Cancellations:

Earth Day

ACRA House & Garden Tour

ACRA Summer Program, but program is being printed.

ACRA Liaison - Discussion with Joe Grippe and Pam Politis

Staff Pay - Will receive half pay for the time being.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Cheryl Regan and Elaine Schmerling reporting

Roads:

Road work was recently completed with numerous areas repaired. Speed bumps were also repainted.

According to New Castle County, the upper part of East Mall is one way (around the horseshoe). We are currently discussing the appropriate signage.

Signs:

The large wooden sign on the Henry George green fell down due to the uprights having rotted away. Big shout out to Chris Monson for rebuilding the sign and replacing it; and Teagan Kime for assisting in repainting the lettering. It looks great!

Natural lands:

Spotted lanternfly (SLF)

We continued searching all winter and through the pandemic spring for SLF egg sacks with fewer volunteers –overall for the 2019-20 season we removed 1,381 egg masses preventing about 55,000 from hatching.

However we did not get them all, especially those high up in trees and the many along the CSX rim. Now the bugs are out in much larger numbers than Elaine Schmerling expected and eating all types of soft plants. We are especially finding them on grapes and other vines, roses & peonies, garden plants, shrubs, and young growth of various trees (they are often way up in the trees where we don't see them). Heavy feeding on trees like silver maples and walnuts won't directly kill them, but will weaken them and make them more susceptible to various diseases and we may have more of these trees dying sooner. Volunteer small oaks, walnuts and hackberries in my yard are covered with them: I can cut whole branches with numerous SLF's and drown them in a bucket of water w/alcohol. We can only imagine the destruction they are doing up in the tops of trees all over the place

We have had many discussions over Facebook (Ardenistas and Forests of the Ardens) on ways to trap these young instars in the garden (check out the signboard for identification, the 2<sup>nd</sup> instars are already coming out). One trapping method is to double over duct tape in a takeout container, and clap the container and lid over a branch with bugs, and shake it. They get stuck in the tape and are trapped. Another is to scoop them in a jar and add a few drops of alcohol or drop them into a bucket of water w/alcohol. Please consider bringing a jar or takeout trap with you when walking in the woods or around town in overgrown areas, and trapping a few on wild grape, etc. We need an army of volunteers.

We are also comparing a few physical traps mainly for tree of heaven trees - in cutting off ivy to scrape off egg masses underneath, we discovered 2 more large tree of heaven patches below the bottom of Brae Rd (one before Phalans on the right, and one directly to the side and below their carport), and 2 more patches, and a few others, within Sunnyside. We will compare 2 physical traps this month, and put chemical traps into some of these trees starting July. We are still in line for the state's USDA treating program, but the state cannot promise that they'll get to us this year (as they didn't last year). Carol Larson has the equipment for treating ash trees, which can be used for this as well. She is willing to help treat these trees, if we purchase the chemical (\$500 per canister, one is paid for by our mini-grant, but if the state can't help us, we probably could use 2 more canisters to get to all of these trees, to reduce the population where we can, safely).

We can use help: 1) Making signs for our traps to help educate what we are doing; 2) putting up and monitoring traps – especially below Brae and any along Sconset rim; 3) making traps for August for the adult bugs; and 4) everyone can trap the bugs. Please contact Elaine Schmerling if you can help at all.

**Paths:** – Huge thanks to Chris Monson for clearing some very large trees that came down on a Sunnyside path, and to Nick Liberman for clearing downed trees in the Glen.

**Restoration:** – as we lost most of our volunteers, have hired 2 locals home during pandemic – Bekah Byer and briefly Serena Gutsche. We have been removing the worst invasives in various Ardentown lands and next Bekah will help with the SLF traps and monitoring.

**Earthday Cleanup:** – was virtual on one's own. Had an amazing volunteer Maureen Theresa who picked up many bags of trash from the creek and the Glen; even pulled a few tires out too.

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** Harry Themal reporting- Candlelight parking lot was repaved as a shared expense between the Trust and the Candlelight. This was done in the place of the fire escapes since the building was closed for Covid.

Pat Lane- Ron of Ron's Trees did a tour of the village to make a list of trees that need to be removed or trimmed. The list is extensive. When the tree came down across Brae Road last month, Ron's Trees got the road cleared when Delmarva came and chased them off. They are now returning to finish the clearing.

Joan- We have the secretary position description ready and it will be posted in the July Page.

QUESTIONS- Joe Grippe is asking about the road damage on Swiss Lane from construction. Alison reported that the foreman has agreed to put in a temporary fix to the road if it gets too bad, and then the whole road will be repaved by Ivy Gables in March, after the construction is finished.

**TOWN CHAIR REPORT:** Regular calls with the Governor and NCC have focused on Covid-19, mostly, as the pandemic progressed, addressing funds available from the government. NCC has a fund from the CARES Act to recompense municipalities for expenses directly related to Covid. So far Ardentown's expenses have been only the Covid mailer and the town Zoom account. Loss of income from land rent will not be known until March, and there is currently no fund to address that, although the federal government is debating this.

Please send your email addresses to [Ardentown.chair@gmail.com](mailto:Ardentown.chair@gmail.com) for direct links to future meetings. The link will appear in the Website, and in the pre-meeting mailer.

In the past, Waste Management was being paid for recycling materials, but now they have to pay, and as a result they want to renegotiate our contract. One way to do this would be to have recycling collected once every two weeks instead of weekly. Lisa Ribblett says her recycling is full every week, so it was suggested that any resident could receive an additional can to accommodate their need. Probably the three Town Chairs will be able to postpone any renegotiation until September, when it was scheduled to happen anyway.

Harry Themal suggested that when Alison talks to the Waste Management representative, she could also address the confusion around the cans that appear and disappear at Joan Fitzgerald's house.

Cooperation Agreement- Ardentown renewed their Cooperation Agreement with New Castle County allowing any resident who wants to apply to HUD to go through the County if they wish.

Storm Water - East Mall drainage is very bad. Cheryl Regan will be in contact with NCC to address drainage issues, and Alison Wakelin will find out about Arden's recent storm water survey.

#### **ELECTIONS:**

**Public Works- Anne Lutz, Elaine Schmerling, Paul Romagano**

**Audit-Stefanie Lomabardo (completing Hans Francke's term and now running for full term), Andrew Hansen**

**All were reelected unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26

Respectfully Submitted By

Terri Hansen, Secretary of Ardentown